
Lewis Little Folks, Inc.



21000 Brookpark Road

MS LLF-1

Cleveland, Ohio 44135

January/February 2001

Dear Parents

It's amazing how quickly time goes by...another exciting year is upon us. We continue to keep very busy this time of year, and the children are learning so much! Because we are inside more at this time of year, it is always a good time to learn how to get along with friends in our classroom and on how to work out differences. The children at LLF are participating in art projects, water table, older classroom are pounding nails and using other tools, Miss Alane comes each week to teach music and always brings along instruments, and Kindergartners are learning about space and planning future field trips. We also take advantage of each "warm" day and get outside. The children really love to play in the snow and it's a blast to watch them!

LLF is also spending time preparing for our upcoming NAEYC Accreditation visit and planning for our new building! At this rate, spring will be here before you know it...

Thank You

Thank you very much to the Tuition Assistance Committee, led by Board member Susan Kevdzija. This committee has worked extremely hard to create and implement a system to assist several families with tuition. We really appreciate your efforts!

Thank you to the families of LLF who contribute money toward the Tuition Assistance Fund. We are all grateful for your generosity.

Thank you to Barry Piendl for his constant assistance with LLF repairs.

Thank you to Helen Ceh for helping with this newsletter.

Congratulations

Congratulations to two of our students for winning coloring contests at the Century Federal Credit Union. Each received a prize from the Credit Union. We're so proud!!

David Dowell (Tiger room)/December
Chloee Smith (Bear room)/January

Parent Reminders

Please notify the office and teachers of any diagnosed illness that your child has so that we can post this information for other parents to be aware. We cannot inform others if we do not know about it. It is done confidentially without the child's name. It also helps the teachers to be more aware of symptoms.

Thank you to all parents who regularly pay their tuition on time. As a reminder, tuition is due on Monday of each week and is considered late on Wednesday at noon.

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration will be coming soon! We plan to hold registration at the beginning of March. LLF will be accepting 12 students into our class for the 2001-2002 school year. A child must be 5 years old by September 30, 2001 to register. All registration information will be given to parents of eligible children in the next few weeks.

Summer Camp

We are also beginning to plan for this year's Summer Camp Program (can you believe it's that time already?). More information will be coming in the near future. We are in need of a parent volunteer to work with the teachers to help plan trips and estimate costs by using an Excel Spreadsheet. Please contact the office if you can help!

Llf Golf Outing

LLF will be holding its first golf outing this coming summer! Dave and Charice Williams, parents of Thomas Williams in the Bear 2 class, have organized the entire event with the assistance of a committee. LLF would like to thank them and all volunteers for arranging this event. It's going to be very exciting! Parents can look for upcoming information and ways to participate in your child's locker.

LLF Building Relocation

The Relocation effort is in progress. We are now nearing the 60% design review of the new building. A team consisting of several Board members and the Director have been attending many meetings with architects and engineers to design the most appropriate building for our needs. We have obtained parent and staff input regarding general design, classroom arrangement, playgrounds, and other exterior issues. Parents are encouraged to attend Board meetings or read the minutes for more information.

Year-end Tax Statements

LLF provides these tax statements by request. Please request through email if you need a year-end tax statement and one will be provided to you in your child's locker, including the amount paid in child care during the 2000 year and the Federal Tax ID number of LLF.

Email address: Maureen.Sartain@grc.nasa.gov

NAEYC Accreditation Update

Lewis Little Folks has been contacted by NAEYC regarding Accreditation and the Validation visit. We are expecting our visit on February 15 and February 16. Because of the size of our center, it will take 2 full days for one or two validators to visit our center. The validator(s) will be evaluating our entire program on a "typical" day. Although these will be very important days to us at LLF, we are asking all parents to treat this as typical as usual. If you usually visit during the day, you are still welcome. We do ask, though, that parents do not come only to see how accreditation is going. This may be disturbing to both the children and the teachers. Thank you all for understanding. These dates from NAEYC are not confirmed. When they become confirmed, I will inform parents. Thank you to all of the LLF teachers and staff for their extremely hard work throughout this Accreditation process. It is because of them that we have such a great center and that our children are so well cared for.

Staff Updates

We have staffing changes to report. Susan Atwell, our previous Duckling Assistant Teacher, is now a Co-Teacher in that classroom on a full time basis and doing an outstanding job. Rebecca Blankenship, who was previously in the floater/after-school care position, has taken over the Duckling room Assistant Teacher Position. We welcome our teachers into their new positions. LLF is currently hiring for the floater/after-school care position. If any parents know of a qualified individual that is seeking a full time position in child care, please contact the office for more information. We welcome your referrals.

Below is a list of the teacher's current schedules for your information. A list of classroom phone numbers is also included.

Staff Schedules

Bunnies:

Shelly: 6:30-3:30
Natalie: 8:00-5:00
Renee: 8:45-5:45
Melanie: 12:00-6:15

Ducklings:

Susan: 8:30-5:30
Rebecca: 8:45-12:30
Janice: 9:15-6:15

Puppies:

Erlinda: 7:30-4:30
Donna: 8:00-5:00
Patty: 8:30-5:30
Cheri: 8:45-5:45

Bears:

Brie: 7:45-4:45
Anita: 8:15-5:15

Tigers:

Cathy: 6:30-3:30
Maureen B: 7:30-4:30
Linda A. 8:30-5:30

Kindergarten:

Ms. Foster: 8:30-3:30

Office:

Carmella: 8:00-5:00
Maureen S.: 8:30-5:30

Kitchen:

Linda R.: 7:00-3:30

Phone Numbers

Bunnies: 3-9179
Ducklings: 3-9178
Puppies: 3-9182
Bear 1: 3-8160
Bear 2: 3-9185
Tiger 1&2: 3-9180
Tiger 3: 3-9177

Kindergarten: 3-9183
Kitchen: 3-9431
Staff Lounge: 3-3084
Office: 3-5264
3-5265
3-9184

D.A.P. (Developmentally Appropriate Practice) Information

Several months ago, LLF distributed pamphlets into all lockers, which gave information on developmentally appropriate practices for each age level. In an effort to constantly give parents information and to help you understand the concepts behind DAP, below is a section of information from one of the pamphlets on how 3 and 4 year olds learn skills:

Language and Literacy Skills: Adults read to children every day, sometimes one-to-one and other times in a group. Throughout the day, children are talking with adults and with other children. Children begin to experiment with writing, at times making scribbles that they identify as writing. Some 3 and 4 year olds can write their names or other short words; others are not ready to do so. Teachers plan learning experiences that help children hear distinctions and patterns in language sound and begin to make some letter-sound connections.

Mathematics and Science: When children construct with blocks, they learn about measurement (how many small blocks in a line it takes to equal a bigger block) and physics (whether things will balance, for example). They talk about the weather and measure and record the changes in the environment. Children learn about levers and gears and other wonders.

Social Studies: Children learn about their communities and about local, national, or world events of interest to them, such as the presidential election. Teachers plan experiences that make these events meaningful to children this age. Teachers pay special (but not exclusive) attention to the children's home culture.

Art, Music, Drama, and Dance: The children have easy access to dress-up clothes and props they need for dramatic play. Daily, there are times for singing songs and listening and moving to music. The classroom is well stocked with crayons and markers (which 3 to 4 year olds can easily manipulate) as well as paints and paper, and children are encouraged to express themselves through these media.

These pamphlets are available in the office for all age groups. Also, more information about NAEYC and DAP can be obtained by visiting the GSA(<http://www.naeyc.org/>) or NAEYC (<http://hydra.gsa.gov/pbs/centers/child/child.htm>) web sites.

Any parents interested in talking about any concerns or questions about these issues are also encouraged to stop by the LLF office to obtain literature or for discussion.

We are also asking all parents and families to help us in our effort to teach the children how to work out their differences. We are continually teaching the children about self-control and how to work out their problems by using their words. We explain to children that we all get angry at times and that is o.k., but that solving problems only happens by telling people how we feel. We do not ever condone hitting, pushing, biting, or any other forms of hurting. Please reinforce these concepts with your child at home. If you have any concerns with this topic, please discuss them with your child's teacher or with me (Maureen).

LLF Policies

It is always relevant to review the Illness and Outdoor Play Policies at this time of year. These policies are located in the Parent Policies and Procedures Handbook.

The staff at LLF does everything possible to stop the spread of illnesses. We wash hands, clean toys, and send ill children home. Yet, because this is group care, the spread of illness still exists. So, we are again asking all parents to follow the policy listed below:

2.4 Communicable Disease Policy

If your child displays any of the following symptoms, either individually or collectively, our policy is to isolate the child from the other children until the parents are contacted and arrive to take the child home:

- A. Vomiting
- B. Temperature of 100 F axially (under the arm)
- C. Diarrhea (more than one abnormally loose stool within a 24 hour period)
- D. Complaints of severe stomachache, earache, headache, sore throat, or other pain
- E. Teary or inflamed eyes (conjunctivitis/pink eye)
- F. Severe coughing causing the child to become red or blue in the face or to make a whooping sound
- G. Untreated infected skin patches
- H. Unusual spots or rashes that you can't identify or is contagious
- I. Difficult or rapid breathing
- J. Stiff Neck
- K. Yellowish skin or eyes
- L. Evidence of lice, scabies, or other parasitic infestation.
- M. Unusually dark urine and/or gray or white stool
- N. Legitimate claims by your child that s/he is too weak or too sick to attend Day Care or Kindergarten.

A staff member observes each child upon entering their group and throughout the day to detect any of the symptoms listed above. The parent or guardian of the child will be notified by a staff member when the symptoms listed above are noticed. A child suspected of a communicable disease shall be provided a cot and blanket and isolated within their classroom. The child will not be left alone or unsupervised and will remain in sight and hearing of an adult. The child's parents or guardian will be contacted and are expected to remove the child from LLF PROMPTLY. We request that your child stay home for a 24 hour period following his/her dismissal and may return to the class 24 hours after his/her temperature has broken or s/he has been on medication for a 24 hour period.

If in doubt about your child's return to the Center after an illness, a written note from your child's doctor is recommended.

LLF reserves the right to refuse entry into the facility of any child deemed too ill to participate or so ill as to provide the risk of contagion to the staff or other children. The decision to dismiss a child from LLF may be made at the start of the day or any time during the day.

LLF recognizes that, at times, our policy regarding the management of communicable diseases is inconvenient for parents. However, it is designed for the maximum protection of all the children in our program. We cannot provide child care for ill children. Parents who are unable to comply with this policy may reluctantly be asked to remove their child from the Center.

We also have a policy regarding children going outside to play. Please remember that the LLF staff may make efforts to assist families when possible, but that this is group care, and individual requests to keep children inside will not be regularly possible. Each classroom will plan to take the children outside on days that are above 32 degrees F. We do take into consideration the wind chill and teachers use their best judgement. But, children really do need fresh air and exercise, and snow play is a wonderful activity for young children.

Please understand that we may not be able to accommodate you if you prefer for your child to remain indoors. Classrooms may be full and not able to take more children, the office staff may be out or busy, and it is also not appropriate to let your child watch the other children in his/her class go out and play when they have to stay indoors without fully understanding why. We may need to request parental assistance on these days. The policy in the Handbooks states as follows:

2.3 Clothing and Supplies

On your child's first day of school, or at each change of season, you should bring in at least two complete sets of weather-appropriate clothing, including underwear and socks. These items will be used in the event of mishaps and should be replaced with clean clothing on the next day following such an event.

Please mark all items of your child's clothing (including coats, hats, scarves and boots) with his/her full name. THE STAFF CANNOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST OR MISPLACED CLOTHING.

Bring your child to school properly dressed for the outside temperature. Efforts will be made to allow outdoor exercise whenever weather permits. This might even include making a snowperson on a pleasant, winter day! All children are expected to go outside UNLESS A WRITTEN DOCTOR'S NOTICE IS PROVIDED.

CLASSROOM NEWS

Bunny Room

We would like to wish all of our babies and parents a Happy New Year.

We would like to welcome our new bunny, Anna Grantier (sister of Emma in Miss Brie's room). We would also like to say goodbye to Devin Matesic who is now a Duckling and having lots of fun with his new friends and teachers. We wish a very happy 1st birthday to Zach Van Zante who celebrated on January 18th and Michael Dowell on January 28th. Meghan Heimann and Danielle Smith-Zudell are eating vegetables and fruits. We have two new walkers, Katie Williamson, who is 11 months and R.J. Shyne, who is 10 months. Congratulations to Katie Williamson's parents, Scott and Michelle, on the birth of their second baby who was born on January 16th. Her name is Heather Nicole and she looks just like her big sister, Katie.

Thank you to all the parents who supplied treats and goodies for our Christmas party. Also, thank you to all the caring parents who gave us Christmas gifts.

Shelly, Natalie, Renee, Melanie

Duckling Room

The Holidays are over and we would like to thank all of the parents for their help and participation in our Christmas activities. The Ducks have been busy this month with themes dealing with winter. The themes we are working with are Winter Clothes, Winter Animals, Fun with Snow, Winter Fun Things To Do, and Winter Wonderland. We have been doing many activities pertaining to these themes and we are having a lot of fun in the process.

Thank you,
Janice, Susan and Rebecca

Puppy I and Puppy II Rooms

We promoted some of our children to the older class. Danny DeGroh and Samantha Hewston moved into the Bears. Naila Martinez and Dominic Navarra moved to Puppy 2, and we are welcoming Jaret Dillard and David Van Drei to Puppy I.

We wish a Happy Birthday to Benji Huynh who is turning three on January 21st.

We were glad to get outside and enjoy some warmer weather and fresh air. Thank you for remembering to bring in all your child's winter outfits and boots. We try and go outside when weather permits and the temperature is above 32 degrees.

Your Puppy Teachers

Bear 1 & 2 Rooms

Happy New Year Parents

The children have been enjoying going outside and playing in the snow. We have also been playing in the hallway and basement. Recently we have purchased new toys, computer games and a variety of music for our classrooms. We have been slowly adding them to our rooms and the children have been enjoying them. We will be starting show-n-tell on Friday, February 9th. More information about upcoming events will be in your child's lockers. We hope you enjoyed your holidays and are ready to start the New Year.

Miss Anita and Miss Brie

Tiger 1 & 2

The Tigers have been very busy. Our "letter of the week" is a big success with the class, and they enjoy bringing in pictures related to our alphabet. We did several science experiments related to winter and winter weather. We are currently testing the children and reports on your child will be sent home in early February. A big thank you to all parents on the great "letter of the month" parties we have had.

Miss Linda, Miss Maureen

Tiger III

We were sad to say goodbye to our friend Lucas Colantoni and we wish him well in his new school. We extend a great big welcome to our new friend, Zachary Keider, who will be joining our group. Thank you to all parents who brought in the snow gear. We had a blast playing outside and helped the other classes build a snowman. We've been keeping ourselves busy with practicing our letters and writing our names. We're halfway through learning our alphabet. If you haven't yet taken your turn with a letter, please think about it. The children really enjoy the experience of sharing and learning a letter together. Please remember you're more than welcome to bring in any type of musical tape or CD's to share with the class.

Dates to remember...

It's Spirit Week: January 29th – February 2nd

Monday – Wear your favorite funny hat

Tuesday – It's school color day. Wear yellow and blue

Wednesday – It's wear your favorite sport day

Thursday – It's PJ party. Wear your pajamas and bring in your stuffed animal.

Friday – It's Dress Up Day

Thank you

Miss Cathy

Kindergarten

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday.

We are ready to start the New Year 2001 and continue to move forward with our curriculum. The Kindergartners are very busy. They are rhyming words, sequencing, classifying objects, identifying asking and telling sentences, following 2 or 3 step directions and continue identifying letters of the alphabet and beginning sounds in words. In math they are writing and counting numbers 1-1000, measuring and weighing objects. In Science and Social Studies they will do units on dinosaurs, animals, homes and neighborhoods and community helpers.

Did you hear the boys and girls have desks? The Kindergartners look so cute working and practicing to be First Graders.

We have started the 100 Club. To be a member, students must write the number 1-100 by themselves in school.

Hip Hooray! – we have four members of the 100 Club. Congratulations to Ben King, Christopher Rodgers, Kevin Heimann and Jacob Dempsey. I'm so proud.

Reminders:

Report Cards will go home the week of January 22nd.

Field Trip Dates – Volunteers needed – please sign up.

March 9th – Children's Museum

May 22nd – Play "Pinocchio" – Masonic Temple

June 4th – Cleveland Zoo and Rainforest, 9:15 – 2:15

100 Days of School Party.

We will count to 100 and need party treats to celebrate our 100th day of Kindergarten

Thank you,
Ms. Foster